



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rocky Mount

First Pres News

July 2022

153 N. Church Street
Rocky Mount, NC 27804
www.fpcrm.org
252-446-9121

Dear Friends,

I want to highlight and celebrate 3 things going on around the church in the next couple months.

First, on July 16th from 11am to noon, we are invited to tour the Lucas Project. This is the house that several of our members worked to help with demolition, refurbishment, and restoration. We took out cabinets, did landscaping, and primed walls for painting. It was a wonderful time of service, and now we get to see the final product after other churches donated time, talent, and effort to the home. I hope to see you at 536 Powell Dr. for a cup of coffee and a tour of the newly refurbished home.

Second, I want to make sure that you have Sunday, September 11th marked in your calendar. We'll be gathering here at the church for our Rally Day celebration. There will be food, fun, and fellowship as we gather together after being separated all summer. Come share your travel stories and catch-up with your church family. During that event, we'll also hold the fundraiser for the Lucas Project (see the back page for details). I can't wait to see everyone here on the 11th!

Finally, I want to commend the hard work that the church staff is doing during this summer lull. From policy and procedure manuals, to planning for the upcoming year, from hosting VBS, to making plans for the Christmas season, from training and growing, to scheduling events for every age group—this church staff is amazing, and I am grateful to call them friends and colleagues. The staff is not sitting back during the summer lull, waiting for the pace to pick back up. Everyone is working hard to make sure we are ready to return to full force at the end of August, while meeting the needs of the day. If you see a member of the staff around the town, tell them thanks for all their hard work.

My friends, that's the news from around here. I'm eager to celebrate all of this and more in the days, weeks, and months to come.

With love and gratitude,
Matt

Pastor: The Rev. Matthew Baker *Community Pastor:* The Rev. Hannah Trawick
Church Ministry Coordinator: Dionne Seale *Financial Secretary:* Jeanne T. Shannon
Director of Music: Jim Smith *Organist:* Virginia Vance

Sexton: Michael Smith *Assistant Sexton & Nursery Attendant:* Charity Lodge *Nursery Attendant:* Mary Hilliard

A NOTE FROM OUR COMMUNITY PASTOR

Stories

When I was in the first grade, my dad started reading the Harry Potter Series aloud to our family. He had a different and distinct voice for each new character introduced. He was so consistent with them that my brother and I learned various accents and dialects he used and called him out year to year (as the books were being released) if he didn't get it *just* right. To this day, the Harry Potter saga is my one of my favorite stories. It's a story that I grew up with, aging with the characters, and it's a story rooted in family love—every time I re-read it, it's as if I am sitting at the foot of my parents' bed all over again, listening to the story of the "Boy who lived." Because of this I excel at Harry Potter Trivia!

Stories are special. They awaken our imaginations and pull us into deeper connection with those around us and the with the characters of the storyline, which is probably why studies have shown that we are more likely to remember something if we learn it in a story rather than if we digest its related facts and figures.

Similarly, stories are the number one way to learn about each other, to foster connection, and to build relationship. As such, FPC's new Community Engagement Committee is focused on telling our church's story to our community and our community's story to the church. In an age of fast-paced change after a prolonged period of disjointedness, the work of this committee is the work of bridge building, connecting FPC to Rocky Mount and Rocky Mount to FPC in increasingly intentional ways.

In support of this committee's work, I am going to start using my newsletter space to tell the stories of some of our community partners and organizations in town, as well as the stories of some of our members who are active in our community in ways we perhaps don't always see on a Sunday morning.

As I prepare for this new endeavor, I ask for your help! Do you know of a story in town that needs to be told? Do you know the work of someone in our church who is active in town that needs to be highlighted? Please let me know so I can set up an interview with them. Until then, watch this space for some cool real-life, community-based stories, coming your way in September!

Hannah

Contact Hannah:
980-271-7851 (Call or Text)
hannah.trawick@fpcrm.org

MAKES CENTS

Please review the below church income and expense data for the month shown. The prior month is not available as of the newsletter print date. Please call or email Jeanne Shannon in the church office with any questions.

Pledges and Loose Offering through May 2022
 Month – to – date \$ 90,583.54
 Year – to – date \$ 340,225.22

Expenses through May 2022
 Month – to – date \$ 45,077.90
 Year – to – date \$ 262,120.65

Church office phone: 252.446.9121, press 5 for Financial Secretary
 Jeanne's email: jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org
 Jeanne's office hours are Monday thru Thursday from 8:30-2:30

The Church Office
 Will Be Closed
 July 4, 2022

Communications Deadlines

- We publish the "First Pres" newsletter monthly. The newsletter is either emailed or a hard copy can be mailed to those without email. The deadline to submit information is the third Thursday of each month.
- The weekly email update is sent out via Constant Contact on Wednesday afternoons. The weekly email deadline is noon on Wednesday.

If you'd like to learn how to run the video or audio for a church service, we'd love to teach you! As of now, Jake Coltrane and two helpers (Elly Mae Baker and Elizabeth Chesnutt) are trained to cover this on Sundays but it would be helpful to have back up! Please let Matt or Hannah know if you would be willing to learn the basics and help us out if needed!



Opportunities to
connect & get
plugged in at FPC!

Brown Bag Bible Study

JOIN THE PASTOR AT NOON ON
MONDAYS IN THE SESSION
ROOM FOR A TIME OF BIBLICAL
DISCUSSION AND FELLOWSHIP.
YOU ARE WELCOME TO BRING
YOUR LUNCH AS WELL!

Tuesday@2

ZOOM MINDFULNESS GATHERING

JOIN FROM THE COMFORT OF HOME (OR
YOUR OFFICE) FOR A 30 MINUTE BREAK
FROM YOUR DAY!

WE BEGIN WITH MINDFUL CHRISTIAN
READINGS THEN SPEND ROUGHLY 10
MINUTES ON A VIDEO LED TIME OF QUIET
MEDITATION. PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN
NEED OF EXTRA CARE ARE ALSO LIFTED
DURING THIS TIME TOGETHER VIRTUALLY.
CONTACT DIONNE SEALE IF ANY
QUESTIONS! ** **WE WILL NOT GATHER**
JULY 5, 2022

Men's Breakfast Fellowship

HARDEE'S ON SUNSET AVE.

JOIN YOUR FIRST PRES. FAMILY FOR FOOD
AND FELLOWSHIP FROM ROUGHLY 7:30
A.M. - 8:30 A.M. ON THURSDAY, JULY 21,
2022.

THERE IS NO PROGRAM, NO NEED TO
REGRET, JUST COME AS YOU ARE AND
WHEN YOU CAN.

Lemonade on the Lawn



JOIN US IN THE COURTYARD AREA
IMMEDIATELY AFTER WORSHIP ON
SUNDAYS FOR A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP
WITH LEMONADE AND ASSORTED
COOKIES!

FPC Young Adults (ages 18-35)

PUT ON YOUR THINKING HATS AND JOIN
US FOR TRIVIA NIGHT AT WESTRIDGE GRILL
ON TUESDAY, JULY 26 AT 6:30 P.M.!
SHOOT HANNAH A TEXT AT 980-271-7851 IF
YOU PLAN TO COME!

Upcoming July Events

Gatekeepers: July 11-15

Montreat Youth Conference: July 17-23



We celebrated God's Great Big Beautiful World with VBS here at FPC the week of June 13-17! Thank you to all the participants and church volunteers from FPC, Church of the Good Shepherd, St. Andrew's Episcopal, West Haven Presbyterian, Lakeside Baptist, and the community at large!

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The "Brunch to Build" celebration will take place on July 16, 2022 at 536 Powell Dr. Brunch and coffee will be catered by Larema's Coffee House.

Each church showing will begin at the top of each hour as follows:

9 am - 10 am | First Baptist Church

10 am - 11 am | First United Methodist Church

11 am - 12 pm | First Presbyterian Church

*Below, a thank you note signed by the
staff at Tar River Academy*

CONGREGATIONAL BLESSINGS

*Lunch and Bingo
June 1, 2022.*

*Congratulations to Alex and
Leslie Durham on their wedding
June 18, 2022.*

*Kiddos at Defy Trampoline Park
June 8, 2022.*

*Lunch at
Prime
Smokehouse
June 15, 2022*

*Ice Cream Social fun!
June 22, 2022*

Presbyterian Women Update

*"God bless America, land that I love
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with the light from above"..... Irving Berlin*

Grab the dogs, chips, and soda..... the fourth of July is coming!! But before you head out to celebrate Independence Day with family, friends, and fireworks, please note the following:

- * Members of the PWCT met for a planning session. They rolled up their sleeves and went to work putting together a fun kick-off for the upcoming Bible study.
- * A Picnic Celebration is scheduled for AUGUST 30th in the fellowship hall. Mark your calendars now and look for details in the August newsletter.
- * And finally, a big THANK YOU to the ladies who graciously volunteered to share their blue ribbon casseroles / desserts to benefit the silent action for the Lucas Project.
- * Lastly, the Circles do not meet during summer months. However, the PW is always involved and actively supports our church family with their hearts and hands.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN COORDINATING TEAM 2021-22

	Nancy Richardson, Co-Moderator
	Stephanie Hayworth, Co-Moderator
Gaye Moore, <i>Secretary</i>	Julia Brown, <i>Treasurer</i>
Sarah Gooding, <i>Historian</i>	Laura Durham, <i>Spiritual Nurture</i>
Laura Dudley, <i>Together in Service</i>	Martha Tesoro, <i>Together in Service</i>
Myra Richardson, <i>Circle of Friends Leader</i>	Tempie Fuller, <i>Circle of J.O.Y. Leader</i>

At left, a group picture of all of the 2022 Outstanding Older Adult Award recipients recognized by the Presbytery of New hope here at First Presbyterian Church on May 22, 2022. Thank you to all the FPC volunteers who assisted with the event and congratulations again to our recipient Sylvia Phillips.



WORSHIP HELPERS

*"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."
1 Peter 4:10*

Date	Ushers	Time with Children
July 3	Laura Dudley, David Dudley, Andy Warner, Lynn Warner	Matt Baker
July 10	Tom Steed, Sarah Bailey, Christie Sondergard, Dillon Rose	Hannah Trawick
July 17	Katherine Fisher, Russell Proctor, Stephen Chesnutt, Chris Watson	Matt Baker
July 24	Dee Whitley, John Turnage, Diane Dixon, Meredith Cooper	Hannah Trawick
July 31	Randy Adams, Sally Adams, David Snow, Wicky Thorpe	Hannah Trawick

Wednesday Fellowship in July

July 6 12:00 p.m. Meet for lunch at Tavern 19 (formerly The Main Course) at Belmont. Individual orders from the menu will be taken.

July 13 6:00 p.m. Potluck meal at the home of Bobbie Lambeth. Meat provided; please bring sides or dessert to share!

July 20 6:00 p.m. Potluck meal at the home of Kay Wester. Meat provided; please bring sides or dessert to share!

July 27 12:00 p.m. Lunch at the church (Smithfield Chicken strips with sides/dessert provided). **WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE!** Bring an unwrapped item for this fun activity!

Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW
US!



First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



fpc_rockymount

Contact Information Updates: Kindly notify Dionne Seale in the church office at 252-446-9121, ext. 21 or dionne.seale@fpcrm.org of any email, address, or phone number changes so we can keep our database up to date. Church office hours are 9:00-4:00 PM Monday-Thursday.

⇒

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the flowers and the prayers. My ankle is getting better!

*Love,
Patsy Manning*

Friends,

Sonny and I appreciate your kindness! It is so nice to be a part of a loving church family.

*Best to all of you,
Pell Foster*

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the honor of being recognized as First Presbyterian Church's Outstanding Older Adult. The beautiful flowers delivered by Bobbi Weeks and the Flower Committee and the lily which Matt presented me with at our Wednesday Evening gathering were beautiful and enjoyed by many people for many days. The lily will be a lasting memory since it is planted in my garden.

Thank you for all the nice calls, drop-in visits, cards, and your attendance at the presbytery celebration, but most of all thank you for being a part of our wonderful church family.

*Thanks again for your kind recognition,
Sylvia Phillips*

Dear Handcraf Ministry,

I would like to thank the Handcraf Ministry for sending the beautiful crocheted blanket and hat to my new granddaughter Stevie. It was such a thoughtful gift. She will be comfy and warm in pink.

Marie Kem

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you very much for your donation of blankets to the Nash Women's Center. We know our patients and their families will greatly appreciate them.

*With appreciation,
Nash Women's Center Staff*

Honor someone or mark a special occasion in the coming year by signing up by the date you prefer on the flower chart that is posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. Dionne Seale can place the order on your behalf at a cost of \$75 that will be billed to you or contact her for names of **approved** floral arrangers that you can contact and pay directly. Not only do we enjoy these flowers during worship, but they are made into smaller arrangements and delivered to those in need of cheer or celebration the following day.

****Donations are also accepted to the flower fund so the church can provide flowers on dates that are not assigned.**

These upcoming dates are currently available for flowers to be placed in the sanctuary:

July 17, 31

*Dear FPC,
The Boddies were very appreciative of the beautiful vase of flowers someone (not sure who it was!) dropped by the office yesterday. We have them in our lobby for all to enjoy and remember Mayo.*

*Pam Larimer
Boddie-Noell Enterprises*

⇒ Our love and sympathy is extended to Tommy Honey and family upon the death of Tommy's father, Mark Preston Honey, of Cary on June 17, 2022.

Our thoughts and prayers are with...

THE FOUNTAINS AT THE ALBEMARLE—Tarboro

▶ Tom Dill

CARDINAL AT NORTH HILLS—Raleigh

▶ Dick Fountain

BROOKDALE—Rocky Mount

▶ Betsy Boddie

▶ Mike Braswell

▶ Cora Lee Gold

ADDITIONAL CONCERNS

Logan Barnes

Margaret Barnes

Mary Kathleen Duncan

Geraldine Donnell (sister of Janice Smith)

Herman Ferguson

Sonny Foster

Earl and Phyllis Goodwin

Emily Kicklighter (friend of the church)

Nancy Liipfert (staying with son in Winston-Salem)

Patsy Manning

Char Mather

Georgia Mixon

Phyllis Parker

Jack Perry

Mary Frank Poe (sister-in-law of Roz Gragg)

Evelyn Reese

Edie Reeves

Cora Rowe (granddaughter of Jean Kitchin)

Jean Rowe (Steve Rowe's mother)

Maida Sessoms

Preston Smith

Scott Solether

Mary Watson

Willette Williams (daughter of Charity Lodge)

Susan Yenney

SAVE DATE

**After thoughtful and prayerful discussion,
we are changing some plans!**

The silent auction for the Lucas Project will occur as part of our Rally Day celebration on September 11th. It will be a special time, here at the church, with food, fun, and fellowship. People who wish to participate in the silent auction are invited to do so, and people who just want to come for the celebration of being back together are invited to do so. We just want to see the church family gathered together after a long season apart. More details to come!

Thank you for your understanding, and we look forward to seeing everyone on September 11th.

Auction Items Sneak Peek

Enjoy a week at beautiful Figure 8 Island. Sound front beach house with 5 bedrooms, 5 1/2 baths, pier with boat access. To be taken during the months of September or October 2022. Donated by the Mosleys and the Hancocks

A beautiful North Carolina grown fresh 8' Christmas tree delivered to your home. Donated by Chris and Emily Watson.

Have a cookie decorating party delivered to your home. Get a basket of 4 dozen sugar cookies, icing and assorted sprinkles delivered to your doorstep. A great treat for your kids, grandkids or just a fun girl's night. Donated by Matt and Liz Baker

Get it together! 3 hours of organization given by Annie Daughtridge. To be redeemed at a mutually agreed upon time.

Any questions? Please contact a member of The Lucas Project Fundraising and Event Committee: Beth Turnage, Stephanie Hayworth, Kate Honey, Anne Mosley, Lucy Rose, Beth Steed, and Kate Tharin.